(d) Prices of these bulk drugs considered in fixation/revision of prices of formulations are based on actual purchase or notified or DGHS import price depending on availability situation on case to case basis. Since the number of packs of these formulations is large the time and labour involved in collecting and compiling the desired information will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

BICP stury on the prices of drugs and formulations

1303. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices (BICP) to undertake a study for the downward revision of prices of the bulk drugs and their formulations ; and

(b) if so, the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Delayed projects of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

1304. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the projects under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers which were taken up during 1993-95 and 1994-95 but considerably delayed and their cost has also escalated ;

(b) if so, what are the details of these projects, State-wise and project-wise, when the Finance Empowered Committee accorded approval ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no time limit had been fixed in this regard ; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor, alongwith the action taken against the persons held responsible in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reaction of states on molasses contro order

1305. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received Statewise reaction on the rescinding of Molasses Control Order of June, 1993 ;

(b) whether Government have permitted State Governments to promulgate their own policies on movement of molasses; and

(c) whether Government will consider standardization of Molasses price in sugarcane growing States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c) The various issues arising out of decontrol of molasses and alcohol were raised in a Conference of Excise Ministers of the States and Union Territories on 4-11-1993. The Conference set up a Group of State Excise Ministers under the Chairmanship of Karnataka Chief Minister to look into the matter and suggest measures to harmonise the rules and procedures in the States to bring them in tune with the decontrol of molasses and alchol.

MRTPC report on loopholes in present drug policy

1306. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has pointed out inadequacies and loopholes in the present durg policy by which many pharmaceutical companies are cheating unaware and desperate patients ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this re-

gard and the steps taken by the Government n the matter so that no patient should be heated by these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New drug policy and foreign multinational companies

1307. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 458 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1994, and state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed foreign Multi-national companies to enter the field of drugs in the country in a big way if so, whether any proposals have been received and approved by the Government so far ; and

(b) what are the reasons for non-availability of essential drugs even after the recent hike and steps taken to ensure regular supply thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) There has been no change in the Drug Policy, 1986 in respect of foreign equity participation. Companies with direct foreign equity upto 40% are on par with wholly Indian companies. The activities of the companies with foreign equity more than 40% are restricted to the 66 bulk drugs as listed at Annexure—'A' in Drug Policy, 1986.

(b) No general shortage of life saving drugs, except localised shortages of some particular branded formulations have been reported from time to time. Even in such instances of temporary shortages, therapeutic equivalents of medicines are normally available.

Study of BICP on drug formulations and pricing

1308. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD :

Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 458 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1994 ; and state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that delay in the announcement of the New Drug Policy is attributed to a corresponding delay on the part of Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices in completing its studies on drug formulation and pricing ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the BICP has already submitted a part of the report and if so, how soon Government expects the full report to be in its hands ;

(c) whether Government contemplates recommending interim/provisional prices for drugs in case of further delay in the submission of BICP study reports ; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the policy had been referred to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Price fixation/revision of bulk drugs is an ongoing exercise and the effort is on to clear the backing and fix the price in consultation with BICP.

(d) The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers was required to finalize its views.

Revision of ceiliig prices of formulation

1309. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN : Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of ceilling prices of formulations which have not been revised for the last three to five years ;

(b) what are the ceilling prices of formulations which have been revised on suomoto basis after DPCO, 1987 and what are those where BICP refused to do so ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a constant corruption in the BICP and the Ministry and undue benefits have been given to the formulatiors at the cost of consumer ;

(d) what steps have been taken to look into and revise the prices of Ranitidine, Cemitidine, Chloramphenicol and several other drugs where market prices are lower than notified prices ; and